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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,364	11/05/2001	Aaron V. Kaplan	KAP 102 DIV	3762
7590	09/23/2004		EXAMINER	
Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler Suite 2850 200 West Adams Street Chicago, IL 60606			WOO, JULIAN W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/007,364	KAPLAN ET AL <i>OR</i>
Examiner	Art Unit	
Julian W. Woo	3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 10-26 and 29-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10-26 and 29-31 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/28/04, 8/30/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 10-14, 17, 18-25, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Matsui et al. (6,352,503). Matsui et al. disclose, in figures 1, 2, 18, 31-33, and 48-55 and in col. 5, lines 18-50; col. 6, lines 1-11; and col. 10, lines 44-67, a device comprising a curved shaft (12) having a proximal end and a distal end, at least one closing element (58) carried by the shaft and including a loop (58) or a clip (60) or a means for closing a left atrial appendage or a second closing element (166 in fig. 31), a handle (8) attached at the proximal end of the shaft, an expander (20) that is an inflatable balloon; where the curvature of the shaft is adjustable (at 11), where the device has a crescent-shaped cross-section (at 193 in fig. 49), where the closing element extends through at least one lumen (14), where the closing element comprises a grasping tool (58 or 168 in fig. 32), and where the shaft has at least a second lumen (at 13) with a viewing scope and a third lumen (at 14 or 15) for irrigation.

Note: The introductory statement of intended use (i.e., "for closing a left atrial appendage of a heart") has been carefully considered but deemed not to impose any structural limitations on the claims patentably distinguishable over the device of Matsui et al., which is capable of being used as claimed if one desires to do so.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 15, 16, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui et al. Matsui et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed, but do not disclose that the distal end is configured to lie within an atrioventricular valve groove, the spacing of the exit ports as claimed, and a kit with instructions as claimed. Nevertheless, it would have been a matter of design choice to dimension the distal end and its exit ports as claimed. The dimensions would be dependent upon the type of endoscopic surgery (i.e., the size of the surgical site) required by the device of Matsui et al. Also, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include instructions for the use of the closure device of Matsui et al.

Response to Amendment

5. The amendment has overcome the rejection of claims 19 and 26 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph.

With respect to arguments regarding the rejection of claims under 35 USC 102 and 103 and based on Matsui et al. (6,352,503): The arguments are not persuasive, since Matsui et al. has foreign priority under 35 USC 119 (a)-(d) from Japanese applications, 10-203479 and 10-205101, which were filed July 17, 1998 and July 21, 1998, respectively. The filing dates of the Japanese applications occurred before the applicant's earliest effective filing date of May 20, 1999.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lerch (5,520,701) and Matsuno (5,766,189) teach closure devices.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian W. Woo whose telephone number is (703) 308-0421. The examiner can normally be reached Mon.-Fri., 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM Eastern Time, alternate Fridays off.

General inquiries relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 308-0858. The official FAX number is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Julian W. Woo
Primary Examiner

September 21, 2004